



DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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Dear Educator/Parent,

My thoughts are with you as we all try to navigate through a surreal remote world of educating and learning, that is ever changing.

As the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) coordinator my goal is to encourage youth in grades K-12 to learn about wetlands & waterfowl conservation and to express that knowledge, artistically, by submitting an entry to the Junior Duck Stamp “Conservation through the Arts” program (www.fws.gov/juniorduck). Visit the link and scroll down to “contest details and important information” to download the official entry brochure and guidelines.

By participating in this program students become acquainted with one of the most successful wildlife & wetland habitat restoration programs in the history of the nation...Duck Stamps! What better way to learn than through first-hand observation of the waterfowl that live in and migrate through the Commonwealth.

The JDS Program, **‘Connecting Youth to Nature Through Science and Art’**, has an arts and science curriculum to spark youth interest in habitat conservation through science, art, math, and technology. Aimed at students in grades 5-8, with suggested adaptations for younger and older audiences, the curriculum encourages students to *engage with their natural world and develop a deeper appreciation of natural resources*. Students have an opportunity to increase their knowledge of waterfowl anatomy, adaptations, climate change, migration, habitats, field journaling, waterfowl painting techniques, and science and art process skills (observation, data gathering & interpretation, creative & critical thinking, problem solving, and artistic expression). I encourage you to download the free curriculum at www.fws.gov/juniorduck.

The culmination of the learning should be students expressing what they have learned, artistically, through an entry to the statewide competition!

In early March, five professional artists with expertise in art, natural science, waterfowl, and habitat conservation judge the entries (*live or virtual*) in the four categories: grades K-3, grades 4-6, grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. Every official entrant receives a certificate of participation and the top 25 artists in each age category are recognized.

A combination of the top 100 winning drawings may go on tour for a year to various venues across Massachusetts. The artwork selected as Best of Show represents the Commonwealth in a national competition and will then tour nationally with the Best of Show exhibit.

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If students are drawing from reference art, please make sure they understand the correct ways to use reference art, which may be different from other art programs, taking note of the enclosed guidelines, provided by a successful commercial artist, on avoiding plagiarism. The student's artwork should not be easily recognized as coming from any particular source.

Please also become very familiar with the plagiarism guidelines within the official JDS Conservation & Design Contest Entry Brochure: Special Information for Supervising Adults, Original Student Design and Artwork, Original Artwork Requirement and Artistic Integrity, Tips on the Use of References, Some Tips on How to Avoid Copying and Plagiarism.

I look forward to receiving your students' artwork. Please **help spread the word** about this 'Conservation through the Arts' program by sharing this information with others! Thank you for your interest in youth, art, conservation, and the future!

Artwork submissions must be **postmarked by midnight February 15, 2021** and sent to:

**Pam Landry, Education Coordinator
Junior Duck Stamp Program
MassWildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westboro, MA 01581**

**please note the February deadline for Massachusetts*

Pam Landry, Education Coordinator
(508) 389-6310
pam.landry@state.ma.us
www.mass.gov/masswildlife

Important Information

Please Read Carefully to Prevent Disqualification

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- ◆ **Understand the guidelines by reading all the way through the official entry brochure (especially information on plagiarism) before you start your artwork, to prevent disqualification**
- ◆ Physical size of submitted artwork must be 9" x 12" horizontal
- ◆ A completed entry form, including signature of parent or guardian, **must be securely attached with tape to the back of each piece of art**
- ◆ Each student is encouraged to write a short conservation message that expresses the spirit of what they as an individual have learned through classroom discussions, research, and planning for their Junior Duck Stamp Contest entries. Conservation messages should be limited to the space provided on the entry form.
- ◆ Students in groups III & IV must submit a Reference Form (see official entry brochure) with their entry
- ◆ A typed list of students' names must accompany the artwork
- ◆ Chalk & pastel entries must be sprayed with a fixative prior to submitting
- ◆ For additional waterfowl information visit the *MassWildlife* website at www.mass.gov/masswildlife or Federal JDS website at www.fws.gov/juniorduck
- ◆ Help support the Junior Duck Stamp Program by purchasing a \$5 stamp from US Philatelic at 1-800-782-6724 or log on to <http://shop.usps.com> (key word junior duck stamp) or Amplex Corporation www.duckstamp.com

Plagiarism Guidelines
Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program

The Law

“Copyright is a form of protection provided by the laws of the United States (title 17, U.S. Code) to the authors of ‘original works of authorship’ including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and certain other intellectual works.”¹ This protection includes authorship of photographs. When a photograph has been published it cannot be copied except with the express permission of the owner of the photograph. It is a violation of copyright law to prepare derivative works based upon the copyrighted work. It is also important to note that works do not have to bear the copyright symbol © to be protected. “Copyright is secured automatically when the work is created, and a work is ‘created’ when it is fixed in a copy or phonorecord for the first time.”² The copyright protection extends “from the moment of its creation, and is ordinarily given a term enduring for the author’s life, plus an additional 50 years after the author’s death”... “for anonymous and pseudonymous works (unless the author’s identity is revealed in Copyright Office records), the duration of copyright will be 75 years from publication or 100 years from creation, whichever is shorter.”³ Transfers of copyright are normally done through contract, that is, an artist or photographer may sell his copyright in various forms including first use, one-time use, limited use, or unrestricted use. It is then legal to use the work, but only under the terms of the contract.

Using Photographs as Reference for Works of Art

Most artists will freely admit that they use photographs as reference tools for their works of art. There are many unspoken “rules” about this usage, and there are many instances where well-known artists have violated copyright law, sometimes blatantly. Gallery owners and publishers of fine art will carefully avoid dealing with an artist who violates copyright law, so it is important to teach art students to resist getting into the habit of closely copying from someone else’s photograph or work of art. *This may well be the single most important lesson that you can teach your art students.* Plagiarism is a habit that can ruin a promising career, and it is usually uncovered under the most embarrassing circumstances. These artists lose their status in the art “business world” and lose the respect of their peers.

Here are the guidelines as most professional artists practice them:

- ◆ DO NOT – copy someone else’s photograph to create a work of art.
- ◆ DO NOT – copy a picture that has been printed in any form including book, magazine, etc.
- ◆ DO NOT – copy a major part of a photograph (an animal for instance) and place it in a different setting. This is a “grey” legal area, but it is considered unethical by most professional artists. If you have to search to find the difference between your work and the reference work, you have gone WAY too far.

- ◆ OK – to copy your own photograph to create a work of art.
- ◆ OK – to buy the rights to use a photograph from the photographer but remember that you do not obtain the right to copy someone’s art or photograph by simply purchasing a book or magazine containing their images.
- ◆ OK – to copy works that have exceeded the time limits for copyright protection

¹ Copyright Basics. Circular 1, pg. 1. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC. 1995.

² Copyright Basics. Circular 1, pg. 3. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC. 1995.

³ Copyright Basics. Circular 1, pg. 6. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC. 1995.